Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-7. **(Canceled)**

8. (**Currently amended**) A fuel injection apparatus for an internal combustion engine, the apparatus comprising,

a fuel supply pump (12) that supplies fuel from a fuel tank (10) to the intake side of at least one high-pressure pump (14),

the high-pressure pump (14) being operable to deliver fuel into a reservoir (16) in accordance with operating parameters of the engine,

a fuel metering device (44) for adjusting the fuel quantity that the high-pressure pump (14) delivers into the reservoir (16),

the fuel metering device (44) having an actuator (45) and a control valve (46) triggered by this actuator,

the control valve (46) having a valve element (54; 154) guided in a cylinder bore (52; 152) of a valve housing (50; 150) and the actuator (45) being operable to slide this valve element in opposition to a return force (60), and

the valve element (54; 154), in cooperation with an ~~opening~~ **aperture** (62; 162) disposed in the circumference of the cylinder bore (52; 152) and connected to **either** an inlet from the fuel supply pump (12) or to an outlet to the high-pressure pump (14), controlling a flow cross section in the connection from the fuel supply pump (12) to the high-pressure pump (14),

the valve element (54; 154) being operable to close the flow cross section at least almost completely,

the valve element (54; 154) also controlling a connection **either** of the inlet from the fuel supply pump (12) or of the outlet to the high-pressure pump (14) to a discharge region, the valve element (54; 154) opening this connection when it closes the flow cross section,

wherein the valve element (54) is embodied as hollow and its circumference has at least one aperture (64; 68) which, in cooperation with the aperture (62, 66) in the circumference of the cylinder bore (52), controls the connection to the discharge region and the flow cross section in the connection between the fuel supply pump (12) and the high-pressure pump (14).

9. (**Currently amended**) The fuel injection apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the outlet to the high-pressure pump (14) feeds into the cylinder bore (52) at an opening (56), wherein the inlet from the fuel supply pump (12) and the connection to the discharge region are each connected to at least one ~~opening~~ **aperture** (62, 66) in the circumference of the cylinder bore (52), and wherein the circumference of the valve element (54), in cooperation with the ~~openings~~

apertures (62, 66), controls the connection to the discharge region and the flow cross section in the connection between the fuel supply pump (12) and the high-pressure pump (14).

10. **(Canceled)**

11. **(Currently amended)** The fuel injection apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the outlet to the high-pressure pump (14) and the connection to the discharge region are each connected to at least one ~~opening~~ **aperture** (162, 166) in the circumference of the cylinder bore (152), wherein the inlet from the fuel supply pump (12) feeds into the cylinder bore (152) at an opening (156), and wherein the circumference of the valve element (154), in cooperation with the ~~openings~~ **apertures** (162, 166) in the circumference of the cylinder bore (152), controls the flow cross section in the connection between the fuel supply pump (12) and the high-pressure pump (14) and the connection of the outlet to the high-pressure pump (14) to the discharge region.

12. **(Currently amended)** The fuel injection apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the outer circumference of the valve element (154) contains a groove (168) extending in the direction of its longitudinal axis (153), which groove, in order to open the connection between the outlet to the high-pressure pump (14) and the connection to the discharge region, is brought into a position in which it coincides with the ~~opening~~ **aperture** (162) of the outlet in the circumference of the cylinder bore (152).

13. **(Canceled)**

14. **(Canceled)**

15. **(Previously presented)** The fuel injection apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the at least one high-pressure pump (14) has at least one pump element (30) with a pump working chamber (36), and wherein an intake valve (39) that opens toward the pump working chamber (36) is provided between the fuel metering device (44) and the pump working chamber (36).

16. **(Previously presented)** The fuel injection apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the at least one high-pressure pump (14) has at least one pump element (30) with a pump working chamber (36), and wherein an intake valve (39) that opens toward the pump working chamber (36) is provided between the fuel metering device (44) and the pump working chamber (36).

17. **(Canceled)**

18. **(Previously presented)** The fuel injection apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the at least one high-pressure pump (14) has at least one pump element (30) with a pump working chamber (36), and wherein an intake valve (39) that opens toward the pump working chamber (36) is provided between the fuel metering device (44) and the pump working chamber (36).

19. (**Previously presented**) The fuel injection apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the at least one high-pressure pump (14) has at least one pump element (30) with a pump working chamber (36), and wherein an intake valve (39) that opens toward the pump working chamber (36) is provided between the fuel metering device (44) and the pump working chamber (36).

20. (**Canceled**)

21. (**Canceled**)